



# Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

201 Worth Street ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27203

## LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

### William Coltrane House, 1785-1800



#### **1. Name of Property**

**Historic name:** William Coltrane House, 1785-1800

**Other Name:** same

#### **2. Location**

**Street Address:** 1184 Steed Road

**City/Town/Jurisdiction:** Randleman, NC

**Zoning Jurisdiction:** Randolph County, NC

**Tax Parcel ID Number:** 7748715220

#### **3. Owner Information**

**Name:** Gary Whitaker

**Address:** 6470 Lewis Davis Road, Randleman, NC 27317

**Phone:** 336-906-3771

#### **4. Applicant/Contact Person**

**Name:** Gary and Donna Whitaker

**Contact:** 336-906-3771, 6470 Lewis Davis Road, Randleman, NC 27317

#### **5. General Data/Site Information**

**A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations:** 1785-1800; kitchen addition, porch enclosure ca. 1840; modernizations (siding, windows, doors, 1930-present).

**B. Number, type and date of construction of outbuildings:** none.

**C. Approximate lot size or acreage:** 8.0 acres

**D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason:** Unknown, 1785-1800

**E. Original Use:** Residence

**F. Present Use:** Residence

#### **6. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Category of Property:** Building

#### **7. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** Residence

**Current Functions:** Residence

#### **8. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Dwelling

# LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

## William Coltrane House, circa 1785

By L. McKay Whatley Jr., Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

### ABSTRACT

The William Coltrane House, built between 1785 and 1800, is the oldest known frame house still standing in Randolph County; one of only two remaining dwellings from the 18<sup>th</sup> century; and the county's only example of high style architectural tastes in an area that largely retained vernacular building traditions into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. The house, of mortise-and-tenon construction, features a hall-and-parlor plan with two rooms on each floor heated by end chimneys. It is distinguished by the most significant Georgian-style interior trim known in the area, which may have been installed by the shop of Henry Macy, an important local cabinetmaker. Coltrane, a Scottish émigré, was a prosperous farmer, one of the county's early leading citizens, and patriarch of a prominent family that remained in the residence well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Coltrane house is being proposed for designation as Randolph County Historic Landmark because it is the county's only remaining example of a frame house from the 18<sup>th</sup> century; because its architectural and design elements were unique to the area even in its own period; because it uniquely represents the residence and lifestyle of a well-to-do Piedmont, North Carolina, farmer in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; and because of its association with Coltrane himself and several of his descendants, who were significant to the county's history. Although the house contains many fine and original interior features, this proposed designation covers only the exterior of the house proper and no other elements of the property (see Appendix A: Coltrane House Site Plan and Designation Boundary).

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE

William Coltrane (?-1814) was one of Randolph County's earliest European settlers. He parlayed a land purchase in 1760 into a fortune, establishing his family as one of the county's most prominent. Born in Wigton, Scotland, Coltrane was the son of David and Mary Trotter Coltrane. His parents brought him as a boy to Chowan County in the 1740s. William became a surveyor and on August 20, 1760, purchased 302 acres along Polecat Creek in present-day north central Randolph County. By the time Randolph County was formed from Guilford in 1779, William had become a leading citizen. The county's first tax list shows him owning 800 acres among holdings valued at £3,950 sterling. He was serving in county offices such as constable/ tax collector and deputy sheriff, and appears to have served as a courier for the Patriot cause in the Revolutionary War. He built his well-appointed farmhouse between 1785 and 1800 (probably closer to the former) on 400 acres granted to him by the State of North Carolina in 1783 (see Appendix B: Chain of Title). His farmhouse would become the family home well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. By the time of his death in 1814, he owned at least 2,800 acres of land in Randolph, Rowan and Orange counties, making him one of the largest landowners not just in Randolph County but in the Piedmont as well.

William's son Daniel (1780-1835) carried on successfully his father's footsteps. In addition to property holdings inherited from his father, he acquired a grist mill established circa 1782 by Elisha Mendenhall, whose family were prominent developers of mills in Randolph and Guilford counties, especially along

the Deep River. William deeded his house to Daniel in 1811. On Daniel's death in 1835, he held over 1,500 acres of land and his estate was valued at \$9,960.

The Coltrane family remained prominent and prolific in northern Randolph County. Daniel's son David and David's son James Ruffin Coltrane continued to operate the family's mills. Two of James's sons rose to statewide prominence: David Stanton Coltrane (1893-1968) served as Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, Assistant Director of the Budget Commission, Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration and chairman of the Good Neighbor Council of North Carolina; and Eugene Jarvis Coltrane (1883-1960) became president of Brevard College.

The William Coltrane house remained as a Coltrane family residence for several generations. A detached kitchen was added in the early 1800s; in the early 1900s, a modern kitchen and dining room addition connected the detached kitchen to the main house (see Appendix C: Coltrane House Floor Plan). A front porch added in the 1840s was later enclosed to create rooms upstairs and down. With enclosure of the porch, the original staircase to the second floor rooms was moved to the east side of the new entrance hall. A bathroom and a small entry porch were added to the east side of the original house at unknown dates. Modernizations such as exterior siding and windows were added between 1930 and the present. Full assessment of the original house's construction is impossible without destructive investigation, but a cutaway in an upstairs wall reveals mortise and tenon construction. Non-destructive inspection suggests that the circa 1785 part of the house is 80 percent original.

The viewshed of the site is a rural, low-density, farm landscape. The Coltrane house sits 59 feet north of Steed Road just east of its intersection with Lewis Davis Road, left of center on a 236.5-foot-wide pasture lot that extends some 925 feet north to a tree line, behind which lies an arm of Randleman Lake. The pasture area is not cultivated. At the road, a low split-rail fence extends along a roadside culvert from a driveway on the west side of the property to the east side of the house, and makes a 90-degree turn into the front yard. The driveway, which extends deep into the property, is a vestige of the Old Courthouse Road, which carried travelers to Johnstonville, the first county seat of Randolph County (1779-1793) located at the present-day junction of old US 311 and Island Ford Road near Randleman. Beside the driveway near the road stands a crepe myrtle tree. A taller tree stands in the front yard on the west side of the house; a few other trees are visible into the property on the west side of the house. A salvaged log cabin relocated to and reconstructed on the property sits to the west rear of the house. Immediately west of the driveway/Courthouse Road and the property line is the driveway into a neighboring property. Beside it is a field that fronts the road with a tree line on its north side. Another large field lies on the southwest corner of Steed and Lewis Davis Road. On the southeast corner of the intersection, across Steed Road from the Coltrane House, are two modern-day single story frame houses. Across the Coltrane house property line to the east sits a large barn fronting Steed Road; beyond it is a driveway extending into the neighboring property, which is concealed behind a tree line at the road.

The Coltrane house has no close comparison structures in Randolph County. The county's only other 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling is the Enos Blair house in Trinity Township, 1750-1780, a log building. The Jeduthan Harper House, circa 1815 and also in Trinity Township, is likely the county's next oldest frame house and is a National Register site.

## ASSESSMENT

### Historical Assessment

While this house has always been recognized as a long-time homestead of the extended Coltrane clan, its actual builder and chain of ownership has never been clear. Much of the confusion stems from half-remembered family tradition, and from the profusion of Coltrane antecedents with the same or similar names. In my *Architectural History of Randolph County* (1985), I called it the William Coltrane House based on architectural and stylistic evidence, but the elderly owner at that time, Mrs. Steed, was certain that it had been built by James Ruffin Coltrane (1845-1917) or his father David (1811-1892). Based on that oral tradition, the family history written in 1984 by Jean Davis Swiggett states that “The house was built about 1840 by David Daniel Coltrane.”<sup>i</sup> This assertion was perpetuated in the 1977 archeological survey report for the Randleman Dam, which calls it the David Coltrane House.<sup>ii</sup>

No date in the 1840s can be the correct construction date for this house, just based on architectural evidence. While rural builders were slow to keep up with the stylistic changes of coastal cities, every aspect of the construction of the Coltrane house indicates an 18<sup>th</sup> century date. While there were Greek Revival additions and alterations to the exterior, the interior boasts some of the best Georgian-style paneling in the Piedmont, together with HL-hinges and door hardware that were no longer used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

While the house has essentially remained in the ownership of the extended Coltrane family for two centuries, tracing the ownership and construction of any Randolph County property back into the 18<sup>th</sup> century presents many problems. Particular information about structures on property were not put into tax listings until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The fact that there are numerous Coltrane family members and relations still living in the county, all of whom claim vague connections to the house and the nearby, now-vanished, Coltrane’s Mill, makes the water even murkier.

Ownership can be shown with confidence back to A.B. Coltrane in 1916.<sup>iii</sup> Allen Bailey Coltrane (1867-1947) was a son of Branson and grandson of James Coltrane, one of the five sons of William Coltrane the original settler. The house, however, descended in the family of A.B. Coltrane’s second wife, Emma (1876-1970), a daughter of James Ruffin Coltrane (1845-1917), who deeded the property to the couple in 1912. The preceding legal title from William Coltrane to Daniel to David to James Ruffin Coltrane is clear from the records, but has been clouded by family historians who insist on attributing middle names to ancestors in a vain attempt to clarify the many identical generations of Coltranes. Swiggett, for example, insists on calling David Coltrane “David Daniel Coltrane,” although other family historians call him “David Jacob Coltrane.”<sup>iv</sup> This report will follow the names cited in legal records.

The later 19<sup>th</sup> century family ownership is aptly summarized by the 1977 archeological survey report:

The original Coltrane owners were prosperous and respected farmers in the county. An 1815 tax list credited Daniel Coltrane with nineteen hundred dollars worth of property in “Capt. Smith’s District.” The division of Daniel Coltrane’s estate in 1836 among his ten heirs listed an estate which totaled over fifteen hundred acres, including mills, worth \$9,960. The size of this estate, small in comparison with farms on the coastal plain, was typical of the North Carolina Piedmont. Soil conditions and the small number of slaves in the area encouraged the growth of small farms worked by family members.

Through the division of his father's estate, David Coltrane received two hundred and forty-eight acres of land worth \$1800 which adjoined lands inherited by two of his sisters. This inheritance passed, in part, to James Ruffin Coltrane... [who] maintained the farming tradition of his family and raised three children, Emma, Eugene Jarvis, and David Stanton on the estate. James R. Ruffin's two sons, however, pursued careers which eventually took them outside of Randolph County and this possibly accounts for the decision to sell the farm by the Coltrane owners.

David Stanton Coltrane (1893-1968) served as Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, Assistant Director of the Budget Commission, Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration, and ended his career as Chairman of the Good Neighbor Council of North Carolina. Eugene Jarvis Coltrane (1883-1960) worked in the field of higher education and served as President of Brevard College from 1934-1950. Emma Coltrane married her cousin A.B. Coltrane and remained in Randolph County until her death.<sup>v</sup>

The 1836 division of the estate of Daniel Coltrane is the key element for unraveling the contradictory family oral history. Daniel Coltrane (1780-1835) was one of five sons of William Coltrane and wife Sophia McGee (1783-1882). William Coltrane (ca. 1740-1831), son of David Coltrane of Wigton, Scotland, came to North Carolina before 1738 with his father and mother Mary Trotter.<sup>vi</sup> David Coltrane obtained land in Edgecombe County and served there as a Justice of the Peace.<sup>vii</sup> David died before 1745 when his mother remarried and her father James Trotter was made guardian of her only child, William.<sup>viii</sup> An adult William Coltrane first appears in public records on August 20, 1760, when he purchases 302 acres on Polecat Creek in Orange and Rowan counties (now Randolph).

Apparently in that same year William Coltrane married Rachel Worthington, by whom he had ten children. By the time he made his will (dated 4 November 1814 but not probated until 1831), he owned at least 2800 acres of land in Randolph, Rowan and Orange counties, making him one of the largest landowners in the Piedmont. Although Guilford County records for the period are missing, he was also evidently actively involved supporting the colonists in the Revolutionary War.<sup>ix</sup> When Randolph County was formed in 1779 its first tax list showed that he owned 800 acres in the county, 60 acres of which were "improved," or under cultivation. He owned two slaves worth 700 pounds, as well as 7 horses and 20 head of cattle. He had 300 pounds of British money on hand, and the total value of his holdings was \$3,950 pounds sterling.<sup>x</sup> William Coltrane served as constable and tax collector in the 1780-81 county court, and was appointed deputy sheriff in 1782.

Given William Coltrane's extensive property holdings, it is difficult to point to the location of his home with any certainty. Family oral tradition states that "his only known home" stood off Davis Country Road near Cedar Square Road, about a mile south of the Coltrane House under discussion. He is said to have operated a tannery at that site.<sup>xi</sup> However, in March 1811 William Coltrane "Senior" deeded 401 acres west of Deep River "on the road to Andrew Thompson's" to his son Daniel Coltrane,<sup>xii</sup> "it being the old settled plantation whereon William Coltrane formerly lived." William Coltrane had obtained this tract as grant from the state government in October, 1783.<sup>xiii</sup> Coltrane would have entered his claim for the land with the Guilford County land office before 1779, and may have lived there for many years before, given the extreme difficulty of obtaining deeds after the death of Earl Granville and the closing of his land office in 1763.

As referenced in the archeological report, Daniel Coltrane was as successful a farmer and businessman as his father. The 1815 tax list of Randolph County showed him owning property worth more than

\$1900.<sup>xiv</sup> The division of his estate in 1836 among his ten children listed more than fifteen hundred acres, including a mill, worth a total of \$9,960. The 1811 reference indicates that Coltrane had moved from an earlier home (“the old settled plantation”) to a newer farm, which may have been a necessity as more and more children needed space.

The mill figuring in the estate division, known ever since as Coltrane’s Mill, is worth another digression as it has also been the subject of confused oral history and tradition. Daniel Coltrane obtained the mill property just five years before his death, from Elisha Mendenhall. The Mendenhalls are another prolific Piedmont family, buying, selling and building a number of mills in Randolph and Guilford counties, including ones on Deep River at Jamestown and at Franklinville. Elisha Mendenhall had obtained the 400 acre tract from the state in 1782, having entered it within weeks of the formation of Randolph County.<sup>xv</sup> As with other Granville District properties, he may claimed it some years before obtaining the final deed. A subsequent instrument noted that the tract was “Where said Mendenhall now lives.”<sup>xvi</sup> Just three years previous, the 1779 tax list showed Mendenhall as living in Capt. Joseph Hinds’ district, the same area as Jacob Skeen who lived at the site now known as Franklinville.<sup>xvii</sup> Mendenhall was well-to-do, but not as well off as William Coltrane at that time. He owned 400 acres, 20 of which were improved, 1 slave, 5 cattle, 6 horses, with 424 pounds cash on hand, totaling 5,374 pounds 11 shillings in value.<sup>xviii</sup>

Although 1890 historian J.A Blair asserted that Elisha Mendenhall built Coltrane’s Mill about 1787,<sup>xix</sup> the best indication that Mendenhall’s Mill was in operation at this site on Deep River before 1782 is found in the Randolph County Court Minutes. In June 1779 a jury of taxpayers from the area were appointed “to view and lay off a road... from the Cross Roads [site of the new Court House] to Bell’s Mill and from thence the best and most convenient way to Guilford County line going by Mendenhall’s Mill.” That jury included William ‘Coltrain,’ William Bell, John Brown, James Dougan, Edward Thornbrough, John Vickory- all near neighbors.<sup>xx</sup>

While family tradition likes to call various Coltranes “millers,” it is only clear that they were mill owners. The trade of producing high quality flour by milling corn and wheat was (and is) quite technical, and good millers were highly sought after. Many were itinerant, moving from mill to mill, and mill history is regularly complicated by mills which go by different names at the same time, using both the name of the owner and the miller. Coltrane’s Mill was evidently known by that name from the 1840s until it was covered by the Randleman Reservoir in the 1990s, but whether Daniel Coltrane actually worked it as miller is unlikely. In his estate division the 60-acre mill tract was awarded to his son-in-law Jonathan Davis, husband of his daughter Rachel, although sons William and John were also given a 1/3 interest in the mill.

As previously mentioned, the 1836 estate division made after Daniel Coltrane’s death in November 1835 provides a way toward pinpointing the ownership of the house in question. The probate court appointed five men, four of them mill owners, to appraise the property and divide it into ten tracts of roughly equal value for the ten children<sup>xxi</sup>. The hand-drawn division maps were copied into the court records in April 1836, but not included with the deeds when made in 1838 or recorded in 1856, so a full understanding of the division requires assembling the surveyor’s sketches into a complete map of the neighborhood as it existed in 1835-36. That plat is attached (see Appendix D: Daniel Coltrane Estate Division Map, 1836). The commissioners and the county surveyor created ten new tracts out of Daniel’s property, with those bordering Deep River or including houses or mill buildings considered to be more valuable. The county line went east/ west through the northern tracts; the road to Greensboro divided tracts 6 and 7; the “Big Road,” the “Court House Road,” and the “Lexington Road” all ran through tracts 1,4,6,7,8 and 9, on their way to and from the mill.

The north side of the 1836 division- Lots 6-9, and part of 1- included the 400 acre tract on both sides DR that Elisha Mendenhall got from the State.<sup>xxii</sup> Tract Number 4 is primarily a 252-acre parcel Andrew Thompson deeded to William Coltrane in 1810.<sup>xxiii</sup> Tract Number 10 “known as the Brown tract” includes 200 acres obtained from William and Sarah Brown in 1794.<sup>xxiv</sup> And Tracts 3 and 5 apparently include the 400 acres on Deep River granted to William Coltrane by the state in October 1782.<sup>xxv</sup>

The estate division to David Coltrane, made in 1836 but not recorded until 1856, was for 248 acres including “where he now lives.”<sup>xxvi</sup> When the 1838 division map is overlain on the modern tax map, the general road position as well as a number of corners survive as landmarks. It can be easily seen that the road running south from the mill toward Johnstonville (probably the “Court House Road”) crosses what is now known as Steed Road almost exactly in the center of Tract Number 3. The Coltrane House still sits exactly on the northeast corner of this intersection, about a mile south of the mill, some 3 miles north of Bell’s Mill, and about 5 miles north of Johnsonville.

Since the tract deeded to David Coltrane includes the site of the present-day Coltrane House, it is no stretch of the facts to identify it as the David Coltrane House, especially since it noted it 1836 that it is ‘where he now lives.’ However, the 1811 deed from William Coltrane to Daniel Coltrane for the same property also describes it as “being the old settled plantation whereon William Coltrane formerly lived.” There is no real question from an architectural standpoint that the house predates 1811, so I would again assert that it is properly known as the William Coltrane House, and was probably built by him soon after he was granted the tract of land by the state in 1783.

### **Architectural Assessment**

While the exterior siding and windows are 20<sup>th</sup> century replacements, the architectural evidence of this important dwelling indicates a construction date in the very early 19<sup>th</sup> or late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The two-story house, of mortise-and-tenon construction, is now oriented with the main façade facing the South, and features a hall-and-parlor plan with two rooms on each floor heated by end chimneys. The eastern chimney is a double-shouldered construction of stone up to the attic level, with a brick flue above that. The western chimney is built of stone up to the second floor level, and is entirely brick above that. Both lower fireboxes are very large in plan, much larger than the present fireboxes, which may indicate that they have been substantially rebuilt at some point in the house’s history.

When the Coltrane house was listed in the 1985 published inventory of the county, it was noted that “The interior boasts the county’s best Georgian style trim.” As has been too often the case in North Carolina, after that publication called attention to the house, thieves stole a good bit of what made it noteworthy. The biggest loss was the western paneled overmantel, the only one which featured an embattled frieze crown molding. That type of embattled molding is unknown on any other house, but is not uncommon in Guilford and Randolph County furniture. Both original mantels featured 6 vertical panels above a shelf, with two long horizontal panels under that. The wooden fireplace surround on both mantels was arched, possibly indicating that the present flat lintel fireboxes date from some later remodeling. In 1980 an early-20<sup>th</sup> century mantel had been grafted on top of the lower western mantel, perhaps due to the installation of an oil stove. The current owner has installed a replacement mantel in the western room which attempted to replicate the original; however the vertical panels are too long, pushing the arched opening too close to the firebox and throwing all the proportions off.



The four original downstairs rooms retain their five- and six-panel doors with HL-hinges fastened with wrought nails. The upstairs doors all use strap hinges, and some of the early lock hardware remains. All of the door panels were apparently painted and grained to resemble “flame” or crotch mahogany at some early point, with lunetted frames drawn through the paint in the center of each panel with the butt end of a brush. (While many of the doors have had the graining painted over, the scratch decoration is still visible through the overpaint.) The western lower room exhibits an elaborate molded chair rail, while the interior partitions dividing the two rooms on both floors are made out of single thickness boards, with two 8-10” planks running horizontally to resemble a wainscot, and vertical 6-8” beaded boards above.

The present entrance to the house was obviously originally a porch, entered through double two-panel Greek Revival doors set in a frame with sidelights (These pre-Civil War doors have now been replaced with 6-panel Lowes Hardware stock). Probably built in the 1840s, the porch was later enclosed to create rooms upstairs and down at its western end. The eastern end features a steep three-flight open stairway providing access to the second floor. There may have originally been a boxed stair inside the main house. This is not clearly visible on the first floor, but the plan of the second floor has an unnecessary passageway between the two upper rooms that could have been the site of the original stair. Another steep flight of stairs runs from the southeast corner of the upper eastern room to the unfinished attic.

A circa-1900 dining room is entered from the western first floor room, and a kitchen is attached to the northeast corner of the house beyond that. This modern kitchen is attached to an 18x20’ rear wing that seems to date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now used as a store room behind the kitchen, it is at a lower floor level than the house and is entered through a board and batten door with clenched nails and a heart-shaped blacksmith-made thumb latch. The upstairs is entered by a boxed stair and lit by two small gable windows. A tall mantel is still in place on the northern wall, and there is archeological evidence on the ground outside that another large stone firebox once stood there. This square two-story structure evidently served as a kitchen and servant quarters, detached from the main house until englobed by the new kitchen and dining room.

According to family tradition there were once “slave cabins” and numerous outbuildings in the yard, but these are now gone. The adjacent barn is not more than 80 years old, and the log cabin to the north was rebuilt on site by the present owner.

Full assessment of the original house’s construction is impossible without destructive investigation, but a cutaway in an upstairs wall reveals mortise and tenon construction. Non-destructive inspection suggests that the 18<sup>th</sup> century portion of the house is 80 percent original.

One final note on the original interior paneling deserves further research: a 1984 family history includes the photograph<sup>xxvii</sup> of a walnut corner cupboard said to have been “built inside” the Coltrane House. The simple horizontal and vertical panels of the lower doors of this piece are similar to the paneling of the overmantel, as are the arches on the glass doors above. The cupboard illustrated in the family history was then in the possession of descendants of A.B. Coltrane, and appears to be identical to (if not the exact same as) a corner cupboard made by cabinetmaker Henry Macy, illustrated in a recent MESDA Journal article.<sup>xxviii</sup> The MESDA cupboard descended in the Isaac Farlow family, and its construction by Henry Macy is well documented. It appears certain that the Coltrane cupboard, which is all but identical, was also made by Macy, and would argue that the unusually well done interior trim could also have

been Macy's handiwork. Macy's shop was no more than two or three miles from the Coltrane House, and his period of activity would coincide with a late-18<sup>th</sup> century construction date.

Although the house contains many fine and original interior features, this proposed Historical Landmark designation covers only the exterior of the house and no other buildings or elements of the site (see Appendix A: Site Plan and Designation Boundaries).

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<sup>i</sup> "The Earth Abideth Forever" A Portrait of the Davis and Coltrane Families..." by Minnie Hohn Robertson and Jean D. Swiggett (1984), pp. 151-152.

<sup>ii</sup> J. Ned Woodall, Alan N. Snively, Terrell L. Armistead, "Final Report of an Archeological Reconnaissance of the Randleman Reservoir Area," Wake Forest University Museum of Man, May 1977, p. 107.

<sup>iii</sup> See the Chain of Title attached as Exhibit A.

<sup>iv</sup> See Find A Grave for the burial of David Coltrane (1811-1892) at Old Union Methodist Cemetery in Sophia. Mrs. Swiggett also prefers to call her ancestor William Coltrane "Billy," which he may have been called, but not in any written records.

<sup>v</sup> Woodall et al., Randleman Reservoir Report, 1977, pp107-108.

<sup>vi</sup> Family history says he was born in Edenton but he may have been born in Scotland.

<sup>vii</sup> Swiggett, p.14.

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid, p.16

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid,p17.

<sup>x</sup> 1779 tax list of Randolph County, NC.

<sup>xi</sup> Swiggett, p.17.

<sup>xii</sup> William Coltrane Senr. to Daniel Coltrane, DB14/337, 3 March 1811.

<sup>xiii</sup> State to William Coltrain, RC DB1/67; 23 Oct 1783.

<sup>xiv</sup> 1815 tax list of Randolph County NC.

<sup>xv</sup> Randolph County LandWarrants, p. 3- 400 acres on both sides Deep River adj. Matthew Ozburn entered by Elisha Mendenhall on 2 April 1779, and surveyed 1 May 1780.

<sup>xvi</sup> State to Elisha Mendenhall, RC DB1/56, 23 Oct 1782: 400 A on both sides Deep River adj Ozburn, BG at a sugar tree... Interestingly, Mendenhall almost immediately seems to have mortgaged the property to a lender in Fayetteville, DB1/57 on 4 Oct 1782- Lease for 1 year by Elisha Mendenhall to John Ingram of Cumberland Co.; 400 A adj. Ozburn "Where said Mendenhall now lives"

<sup>xvii</sup> It is possible that Mendenhall was then living or working to develop a mill at the present site of Worthville, near the mouth of Polecat Creek on Deep River. He owned a tract there known as "the Whetstone Quarry," DB12/301.

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<sup>xviii</sup> 1779 Randolph County Tax list.

<sup>xix</sup> J.A.Blair, *Reminiscences of Randolph County*, 1890, p32.

<sup>xx</sup> RC Ct Min 16 June 1779. "Ordered that the following jury- Edward Sharp, John Clark, Samuel Clark, Lewis Ashliman, William Coltrain, William Gossett, Lewis Morgan, John Brown, James Dougan, William Bell, Abraham Reese, John Vickory, Edward Thornbrough, Marmaduke Vickory, Samuel Clark Jr., Thomas Clark and Samuel Hemphill, or any Twelve, view and lay off said road from the Cross roads to Bell's Mill and from thence the best and most convenient way to Guilford County line going by Mendenhall's Mill..."

<sup>xxi</sup> The mill owners were Elisha Coffin (Franklinville), Job Reynolds and John Branson (Polecat Creek), Samuel Walker (Deep River), and local politician and future Congressman Martin W. Leach of Trinity.

<sup>xxii</sup> DB1/56 on 23 Oct 1782.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Andrew Thompson to William Coltrane, DB 12/9, 15 Oct 1810; several roads leading to and from the mill crossed this tract.

<sup>xxiv</sup> William and Sarah Brown to William Coltrane, DB5/152, 1794.

<sup>xxv</sup> State to William Coltrane, RC DB1/67, 23 Oct 1782.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Commissioners to David Coltrane, DB30/315, 1 May 1838, recorded 23 Sept 1856.

<sup>xxvii</sup> "The Earth Abideth Forever" A Portrait of the Davis and Coltrane Families..." by Jean D. Swiggett (1984, p152).

<sup>xxviii</sup> "Friendly Furniture: The Quaker Cabinetmakers of Guilford County, North Carolina, 1775-1825," by Robert Leath (*Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, Vol. 37, p152).



# Appendix A: Coltrane House Site Plan and Designation Boundary





# Appendix B: Chain of Title

## CHAIN OF TITLE

**William/ Daniel Coltrane House**  
**1184 Steed Road, Randleman, NC 27317**

**New Market Township, Randolph County, NC**

2014 DB2414/822 Retha Steed, Tracey Steed and Sandra Griffin to Gary and Donna Whitaker, 7.998 acres

2007 DB2028/1450 Retha H. Steed (widow) to Tracey L. Steed & Sandra S. Griffin, 12.712A

1980 DB1116/120 G. Vance Steed and Lala D. Steed Seward to Colvin L. Steed, 12.712A

1960 DB727/411 Gladys S. Gaffney, Margaret S. Gaffney, Faye S. Tillotson (Heirs of William Louis Steed, 1890-1958) to G. Vance Steed and Lala D. Steed, 101.7A

1915 DB162/238 T.O. Spencer and A.B. Coltrane and wife to W.L. Steed, 82A (see M/D at 160/194, 1-15-15)

1914 DB186/106 T.O. (Thomas Oliver) Spencer and A.B. (Allen Bailey) Coltrane and wife Emma R. Coltrane to W.L. Steed, 94.75A (T.O. Spencer was a mortgage broker; see DB172/534. W.L. Steed was a son of the brother of A.B. Coltrane's first wife Mattie Estrella Steed, 1870-1902).

1912 DB144/349 J.R. Coltrane and wife Martha to A.B. Coltrane, 382A. (A.B. Coltrane married Emma R. Coltrane in 1905)

1891 DB73/284 David Coltrane to J.R. (James Ruffin) Coltrane, 382A

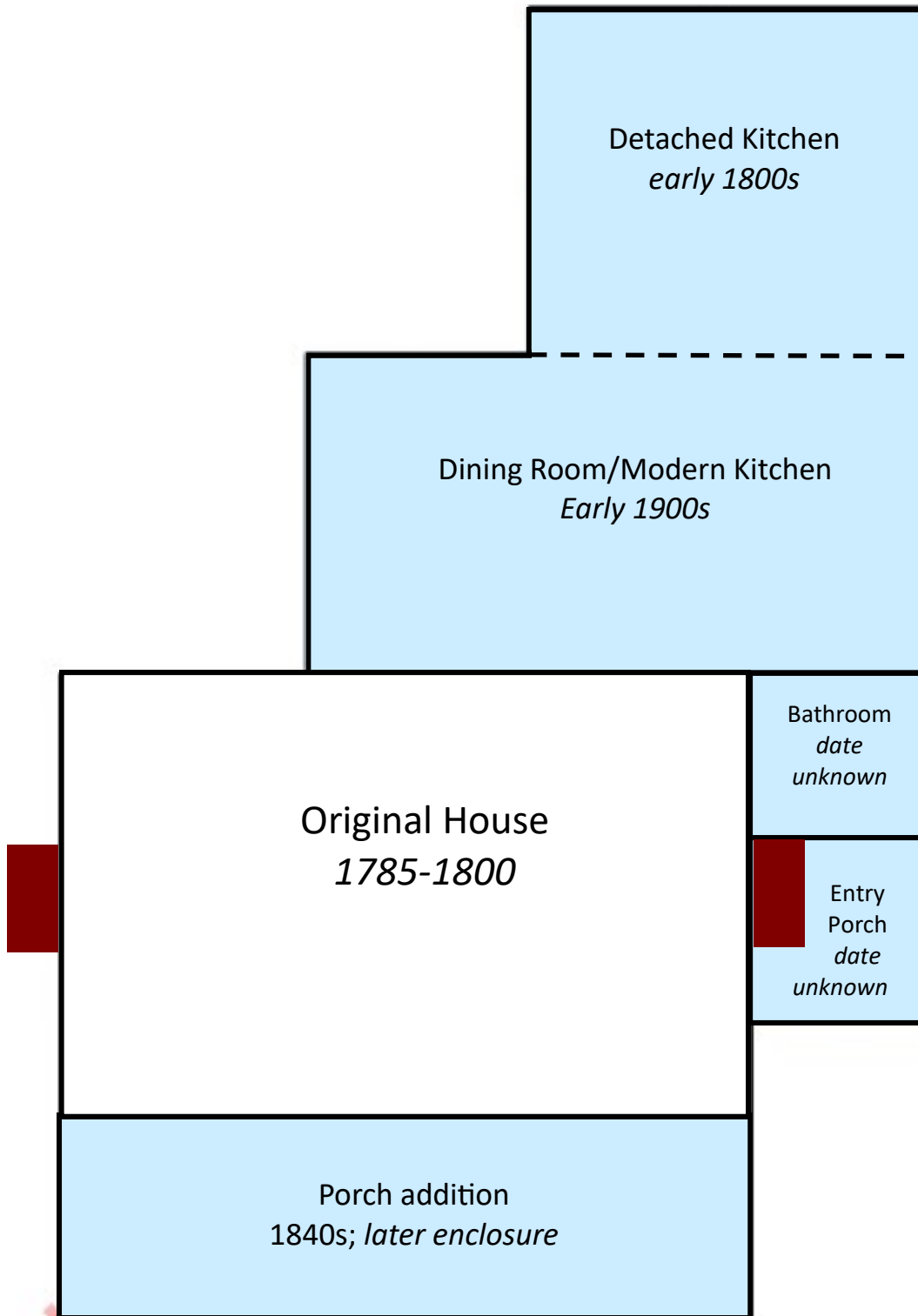
1836/1856 DB30/317 Commissioners to Divide Daniel Coltrane Estate; Lot 3, "Where he now lives" to David Coltrane (p.315)

1811 DB14/337 William Coltrane Senr. to Daniel Coltrane  
401 acres on the road to Andrew Thompsons at a branch and the bend of the River, "it being the old settled plantation whereon William Coltrane formerly lived."

1783 DB1/67 State to William Coltrain- 400 acres on DR (the entire eastern boundary of the tract follows the meanders of Deep River).

# Appendix C: Coltrane House Floor Plan

*Original and Additions*



# Coltrane House: Tax Information and Full Parcel Map

## Property Summary

Print

Tax Year: 2019

REID	39527	PIN	7748-71-5220	Property Owner	WHITAKER, DONNA S; WHITAKER, GARY L
Location Address	1184 STEED RD	Property Description	R1934;N	Owner's Mailing Address	6470 LEWIS DAVIS RD RANDELMAN NC 27317

### Administrative Data

Old Map #	
Market Area	4480
Township	NEW MARKET
Planning Jurisdiction	Randolph
City	
Fire District	GUILRAND
Spec District	
Land Class	SINGLE FAMILY RES
History REID 1	
History REID 2	
Acreage	8
Permit Date	
Permit #	

### Transfer Information

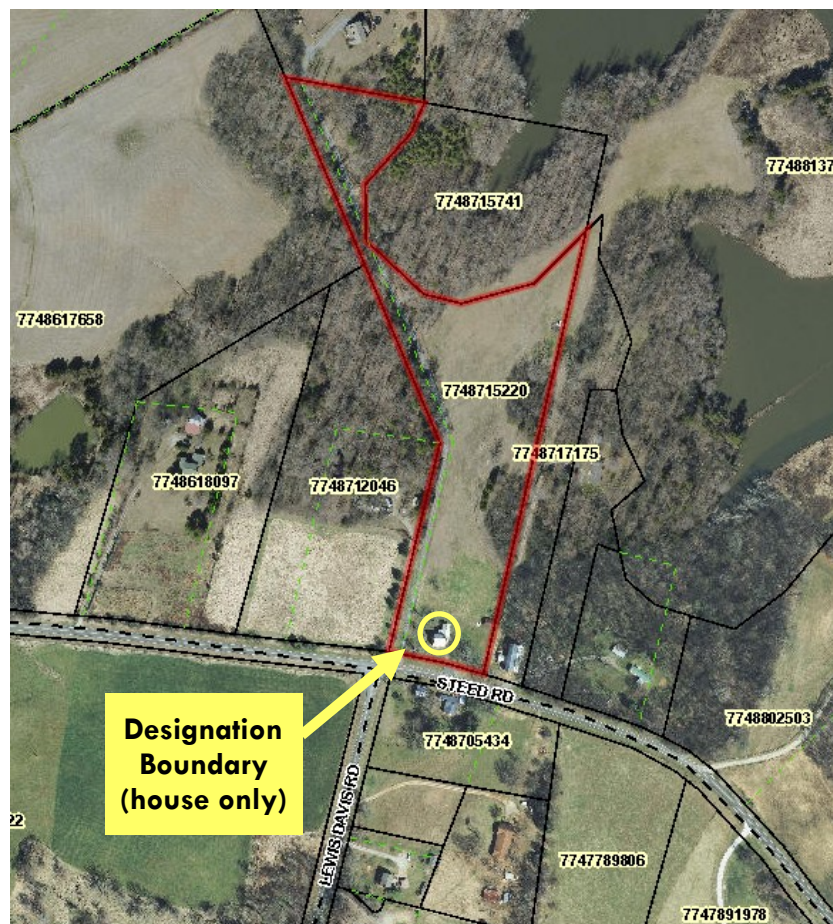
Deed Date	11/6/2014
Deed Book	002414
Deed Page	00822
Revenue Stamps	\$200
Package Sale Date	11/6/2014
Package Sale Price	\$100,000
Land Sale Date	
Land Sale Price	

### Improvement Summary

Total Buildings	1
Total Units	0
Total Living Area	2,089

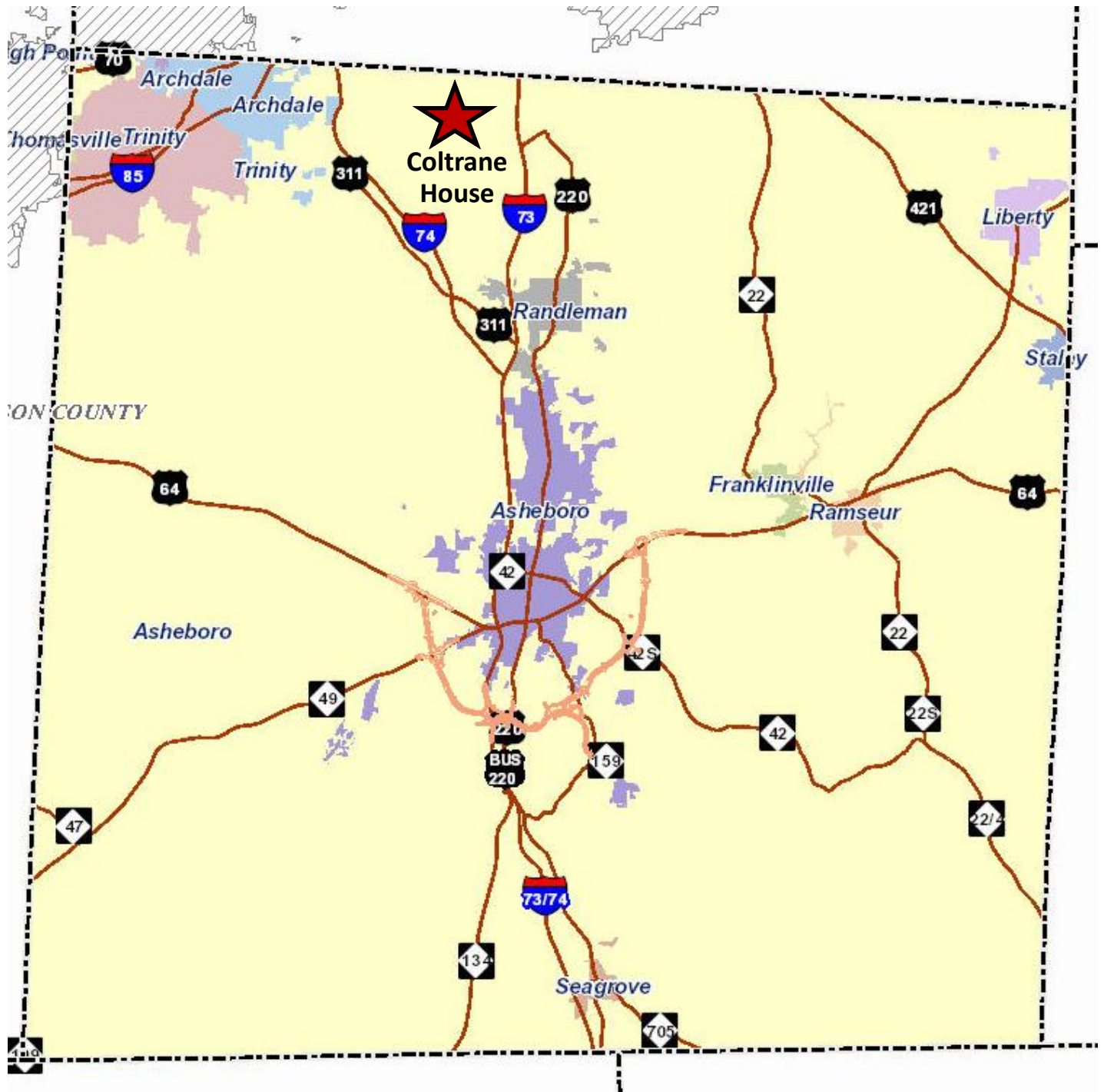
### Property Value

Total Appraised Land Value	\$74,750
Total Appraised Building Value	\$39,440
Total Appraised Misc Improvements Value	\$1,500
Total Cost Value	\$115,690
Total Appraised Value - Valued By Cost	\$115,690
Other Exemptions	
Exemption Desc	
Use Value Deferred	
Historic Value Deferred	
Total Deferred Value	
Total Taxable Value	\$115,690



# The William Coltrane House

*location within Randolph County*





# The William Coltrane House, 1785-1800



*Southeast facade*



*Southwest facade; driveway is the "Court House Road."*





*Southwest facade*



*Rear view from northwest*





*Kitchen wing from the northwest*



*Rear view from northeast with kitchen wing*



*West and east chimneys*



*Location of kitchen chimney*



# Interior



*West overmantel*



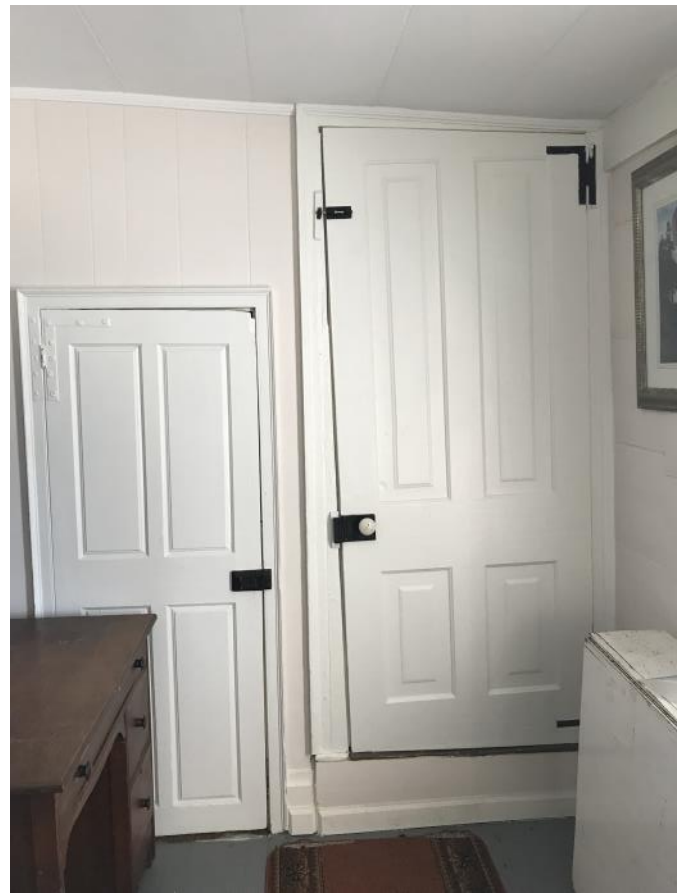
*East overmantel (reproduction)*



*Embattled frieze*



*6-panel door, HL hinges,  
chair rail*



*Entrance hall door to upstairs*



*Staircase to second floor*



*Staircase detail*



*Staircase detail—top view*



*Second floor landing and hall*



*Second floor hall*



*Second floor passage*



*Door to attic stairs*





*Attic*

## Details



*Cut-away by owner to show construction*



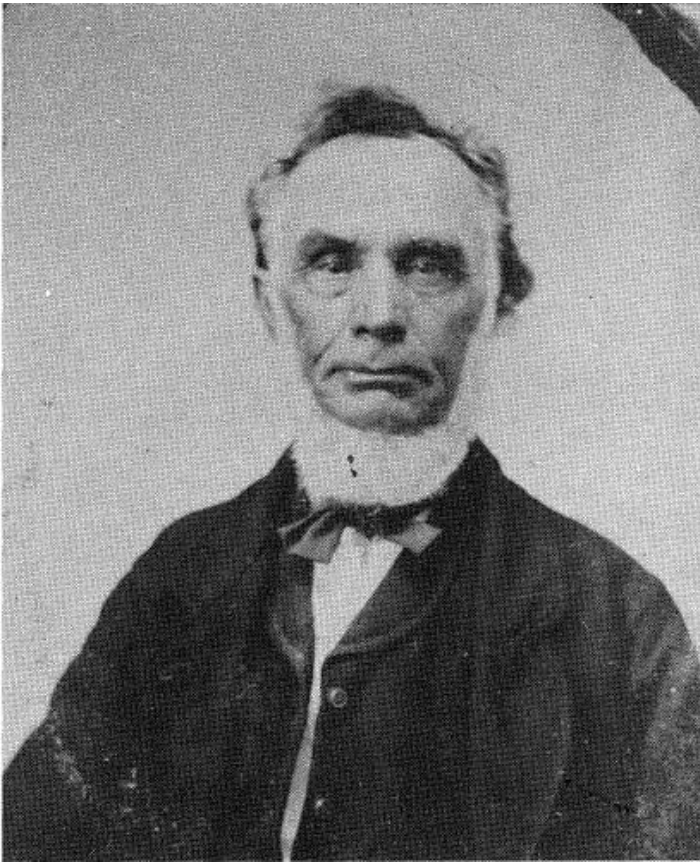
*Door with mahogany 'flame' graining*



# Kitchen Wing



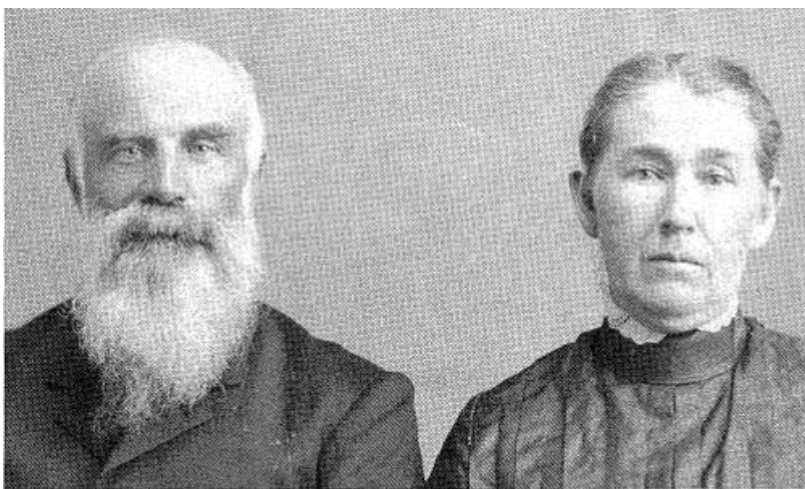
# The Coltrane Family



*David Coltrane, grandson of William Coltrane*



*Susanna Welborn Coltrane, wife of David Coltrane*



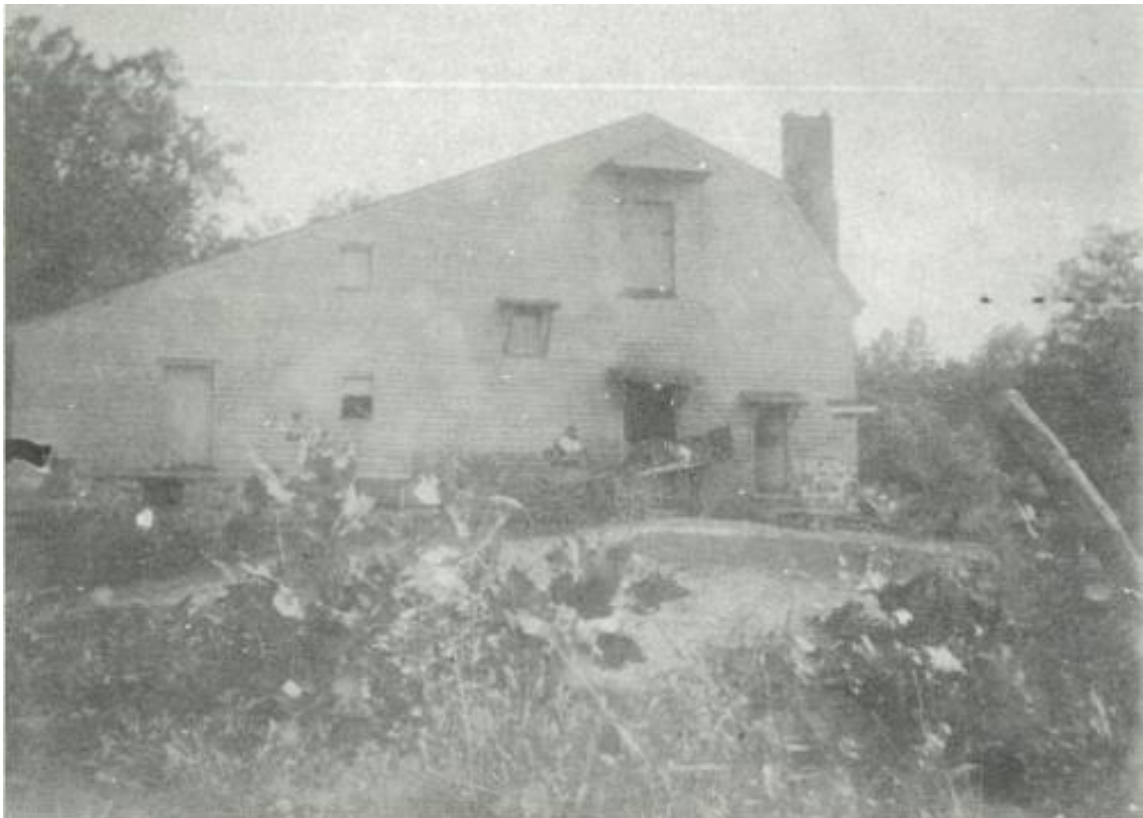
*Above: James Ruffin Coltrane (son of David Coltrane) and his wife Martha. Right: Sophia McGee Coltrane, mother of David Coltrane and wife of Daniel Coltrane*







***Mendenhall Mill built 1760 by Elisha Mendenhall; later Coltrane Mill.***



***The figure on the carriage in front of the mill is Jesse Coltrane driving "Gypsy."***